

## SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:**

The invention relates to the handling of hydroxide sludge formed in the neutralisation of spent metal-contaminated pickling agents from a pickling step for steel, preferably stainless steel. The controversial idea forms the basis of the invention, that instead of previously focusing on recovery of the metals of the hydroxide sludge, now focusing on the calcium fluoride content, and considering this calcium fluoride to be a resource instead of a load. The present applicant has striven to find a method that enables handling of the calcium fluoride in the hydroxide sludge, in order to use it as a replacement for natural fluorspar (commonly called flux) as a fluxing agent. This is achieved by a method of producing a fluxing agent that can be used in production of steel, preferably stainless steel, characterised in that as a raw material for the production of said fluxing agent is used a hydroxide sludge resulting from neutralisation of metal-contaminated pickling liquid from a pickling step for a steel, said hydroxide sludge containing at least one fluoride-containing compound, and that said hydroxide sludge is calcined. The invention also provides a method in connection with steel production, preferably stainless steel, comprising production of a steel heat and decarburization of the steel heat, whereby a slag is formed on top of said steel heat, characterised in that a product according to the invention is added to said slag. Preferably, the product is added to the slag in an amount that partly or totally corresponds to the requirement of  $\text{CaF}_2$  in order to achieve a desired fluxing effect.